

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 2, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 2, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 9-24, 26-27 and 29-31 are pending in the application. Claims 9, 14-20, 22-24, 27 and 30-34 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 9, 14-17, 22-24 and 27 have been amended. Claims 10-13, 21, 26 and 29 have been cancelled. New claims 32-34 have been added. Applicants submit that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 17-19, 24 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bays et al.* (U.S. Publication 2003/0018632, hereinafter, "*Bays*") in view of *Higgins et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 7,143,074, hereinafter, "*Higgins*").

Claims 9, 17, 24 and 27 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable subject matter as noted by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 17, 24 and 27, and all claims dependent on claim 9, 17, 24 or 27, are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-16, 20-23, 26 and 29-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 9, 17, 24 and 27 and cancelled claims 10-13, 21, 26 and 29 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by

the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

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